

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Various embodiments are described to address the need to lower  
5 backhaul costs for EGPRS operators while maintaining the low and constant  
delay characteristics they require. 20 msec TRAU frames (221-226) are still  
used for backhaul to maintain the low and constant delay. However, to  
eliminate the restriction of mapping TRAU timeslots to air timeslots (211-218)  
one-to-one, the TRAU slots are collectively treated as a one large 20 msec  
10 TRAU frame for a group of air timeslots. The data for the air timeslots can be  
packed efficiently into this giant TRAU frame, ignoring backhaul timeslot  
boundaries. In this way, the appropriate amount of backhaul for the carrier  
can be allocated and the data for the air interface timeslots more efficiently  
packed into the backhaul.